

**PROFESSIONAL HYDROLOGISTS SECTION
EXAMINING BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS,
HYDROLOGISTS AND SOIL SCIENTISTS
MINUTES
MADISON, WISCONSIN
SEPTEMBER 26, 2000**

PRESENT: Stephen Donohue, Robert Karnauskas, Herbert Garn

EXCUSED: Roger Hall

STAFF PRESENT: Alfred Hall, Jr., Becky Fry; William Black, Legal Counsel, for portions of the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

Stephen Donohue, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m. A quorum of three members was present.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION: Herbert Garn moved, seconded by Robert Karnauskas, to adopt the agenda as published. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (8/16/00 & 9/11/00)

The Section clarified the expert witness issue by William Black, as follows:

“Legal Counsel indicated the memo spoke to general options for a board member testifying as an expert witness in a malpractice case, involving a licensed professional hydrologist, who comes under the regulation of the Section. Specific cases of recusal would need to be judged on a case-by-case basis by contacting William Black, Legal Counsel; William Dusso, General Counsel; or the Ethics Board directly.”

MOTION: Herbert Garn moved, seconded by Robert Karnauskas, to approve the 8/16/00 minutes, as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: Robert Karnauskas moved, seconded by Herbert Garn, to approve the 9/11/00 minutes, as written. Motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Secretary Cummings' Report

Secretary Cummings discussed the department's increase in the use of information technology to develop application processing via the Internet. The department is using teleconference equipment to allow Board members the option of participating in meetings without travel.

Stephen Donohue asked the staff to consider the use of Email and electronic signatures to process final decisions and orders electronically that have been approved by board members. The current process of signing orders by mail could take up to four to seven business days compared to one to two days electronically.

Secretary Cummings informed the Section that the department's budget has been submitted. She discussed the importance of training current Division of Enforcement staff to become familiar with hydrologic work in order for them to effectively investigate related complaint cases.

Bureau Director's Report

- **Section Roster**

Noted.

- **2001 Meeting Dates**

Noted.

- **Regulatory Digest Article re: Application Denials**

The Section approved of the article. The information will be sent to all the denied applicants by letter.

- **2/2001 Regulatory Digest Proposed Articles**

Mr. Hall indicated that articles are needed for the upcoming Regulatory Digest.

Herbert Garn will provide a report of the November 2000, American Institute of Hydrology (AIH) annual meeting.

- **To-Pass Folder**

None.

AIH

- **Exam Administration**

Darwin Tichenor reviewed the summary of options available to the Department of Regulation and Licensing, should the AIH be unable to meet the conditions set forth in the Letter of Understanding, relating to AIH assuming responsibility for maintaining and administering the Professional Hydrology licensure examination.

- **Letter of Understanding**

Darwin Tichenor stated that the AIH has signed the Letter of Understanding. Mr. Tichenor explained the next step in the process, relating to the AIH assuming responsibility for the hydrology exam.

Darwin Tichenor informed the Section that the AIH has established a Transition Committee to work on acquiring the technical and administrative resources to maintain and administer the examination for national certification.

- **Annual Meeting**

The Section reviewed information to be included in Stephen Donohue's presentation to the American Institute of Hydrology, relating to Wisconsin Professional Hydrology licensure and the AIH assuming responsibility for the examination.

Mr. Hall will contact the Chairperson of the Executive Board to solidify the time and date for a presentation at the annual meeting and to offer a representative from Wisconsin as a member of the Transition Committee to provide technical consultation and direction and to monitor the progress of the transfer process.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION/CORRESPONDENCE

The Section received a copy of the September 18, 2000, response to Thomas Slawski relating to the petition for rehearing of the application for licensure as a professional hydrologist. Noted.

NEW BUSINESS

The Section discussed requesting additional information relating to the practice of limnology and requested that affected individuals be invited to address the Section at the November 21, 2000, meeting.

CONVENE TO CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: Herbert Garn moved, seconded by Robert Karnauskas, to convene to closed session to deliberate on cases following hearing (s. 19.85(1)(a), Stats.); to consider licensure or discipline (s. 19.85(1)(b), Stats.), to consider individual histories or disciplinary data (s. 19.85(1)(f), Stats.), and, to confer with Legal Counsel (s. 19.85(1)(g), Stats.). Motion carried by roll call vote: Herbert Garn-yes; Robert Karnauskas-yes; Stephen Donohue-yes.

Open Session recessed and the Closed Session convened at 11:04 a.m.

CLOSED SESSION

The Section deliberated on a pending application.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

By consensus, Open Session reconvened at 12:04 p.m.

VOTING ON ITEMS CONSIDERED OR DELIBERATED UPON IN CLOSED SESSION

PENDING APPLICATION

MOTION: Robert Karnauskas moved, seconded by Herbert Garn, to grant the Certificate of Authorization to Northern Environmental Technology, Inc. contingent on evidence from the firm of its disassociation with the employee that gave rise to the disciplinary action in Minnesota. Motion carried unanimously.

SUCH OTHER ITEMS AS AUTHORIZED BY LAW

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Robert Karnauskas moved, seconded by Herbert Garn, to adjourn the meeting at 12:06 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.